KNOWLEDGE & ACTION

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

SO, ASK THE PEOPLE OF KNOWLEDGE IF YOU KNOW NOT
(Surah An Nahl 16:43)

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

SAY: BELIEVE IN IT (THE QUR'AN) OR DO NOT BELIEVE. VERILY! THOSE WHO WERE GIVEN KNOWLEDGE BEFORE IT, WHEN IT IS RECITED TO THEM, FALL DOWN ON THEIR FACES IN HUMBLE PROSTRATION. AND THEY SAY: "GLORY BE TO OUR LORD! TRULY, THE PROMISE OF OUR LORD MUST BE FULFILLED". AND THEY FALL DOWN ON THEIR FACES WEEPING AND IT ADDS TO THEIR HUMILITY
(Surah Al Isra' 17:107-9)

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

SAY, ARE THEY ALIKE THOSE WHO HAVE KNOWLEDGE AND THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE KNOWLEDGE?
(Surah Az Zumar 39:9)

Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) says:

ALLAH WILL EXALT IN DEGREE THOSE OF YOU WHO BELIEVE AND THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED KNOWLEDGE
(Surah Al Mujaadilah 58:11)

On the authority of Ibn Mas'ud (رضي الله عنه) who said that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"THE TWO FEET OF THE SON OF ADAM WILL NOT MOVE FROM NEAR HIS LORD ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT UNTIL HE IS ASKED ABOUT FIVE (MATTERS) ABOUT HIS LIFE – HOW HE SPENT IT; ABOUT HIS YOUTH – HOW HE TOOK CARE OF IT; ABOUT HIS WEALTH – HOW HE EARNED IT; AND WHERE HE SPENT IT AND ABOUT THAT WHICH HE ACTED UPON FROM THE KNOWLEDGE HE ACQUIRED."
(Tirmidhi, and others, see Saheeh Sunan at-Tirmidhi, no. 1969, and as Silsilah 'As Saheehah no.946)

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"WHOEVER TREADS A PATH SEEKING KNOWLEDGE, ALLAH WILL MAKE EASY FOR HIM THE PATH TO PARADISE."
(Ibn Majah and others, fulfilling the conditions of Imam al Bukharee and Imam Muslim)

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said:

"WHEN A PERSON DIES, ALL OF HIS ACTIONS DISCONTINUE, EXCEPT THREE: A RECURRING CHARITY, OR KNOWLEDGE THAT IS BEING BENEFITTED FROM, OR A RIGHTEOUS MAN THAT PRAYS FOR HIM."
(Saheeh Muslim, Kitab Al Wasiyyah, Eng trans Vol 3, Page 867, Hadith 4005; Abu Dawud, Kitab Al Wasaayaa, Eng trans Vol 2, Page 812, Hadith 2874; and others)

On the authority of Zayd Ibn Arqam (Radia Allahu 'Anhu) that,

The Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) used to say:

"O ALLAH, I SEEK REFUGE IN YOU FROM KNOWLEDGE WHICH DOES NOT BENEFIT, FROM A HEART WHICH DOES NOT FEEL HUMBLE, FROM A SOUL THAT DOES NOT FEEL CONTENTED AND FROM AN INVOCATION THAT IS NOT ANSWERED."
(Saheeh Muslim, Eng trans Vol 4, Page 1425, Hadith 6568; and others)

The hadeeth of Jabir (رضي الله عنه) who said:

"We set out for a journey and along the way a man from amongst us injured himself on a rock and split his head, after which he had a wet dream and required a bath so he asked his companions,

"Do you find any concession for me in that I make tayammum?

They replied, "We do not find any concession for you as you are able to use water."

So, he bathed and died as a result. The Companions passed a ruling, without knowledge, to the wounded man that he should have a full bath – which eventually leads to his death. This was mentioned to the Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم).

As a result, the Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه و سلم) supplicated against them saying:

"THEY KILLED HIM, MAY ALLAH KILL THEM, SHOULD THEY NOT HAVE ASKED IF THEY DIDN'T KNOW?! VERILY THE CURE OF ALL IGNORANCE IS TO QUESTION! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH FOR HIM HAD HE PERFORMED TAYAMMUM."
(Sunan Abu Dawud, Vol 1, Page 59, Hadeeth no.336)

On the authority of 'Ali (رضي الله عنه) that he made mention of trials occurring at the end of time.

'Umar (رضي الله عنه) asked him, "When will that be, O 'Ali?" He said,
"When understanding of the religion is sought for other purposes, and knowledge is acquired for other than acting upon, and worldly gain is sought with the actions of the Hereafter."
(Abdar Razzaq in his Mussanaf as a statement of 'Ali. It is also in Saheeh At Targhib Wat Tarhib, Hadeeth 106)

Ibn Mas'ud (رضي الله عنه) said,

"Learn, learn, and once you have learnt, act."
(Hasan Isnad No 13)

Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) said,

“The example of knowledge not acted upon is that of a treasure none of which is spent in the way of Allah the Mighty and Majestic.”

Az Zuhri (رحيم الله) said,

“The people will never be pleased with the statement of a scholar who does not act, nor of a person who acts but has no knowledge.” (Hasan Isnad, no.12)

Words of wisdom from the book ***iqtidaa’ Ul ilm il Amal*** as follows:

- “Knowledge is like a father and action is like a child. Knowledge goes with action as narrating goes with understanding.”
- “Knowledge leads to action, just as action leads to salvation. So, if the action is less than the knowledge, the scholar’s knowledge is a burden upon him.”
- “Just as wealth has no benefit unless it is spent, knowledge does not benefit except one who acts upon it and observes its obligations.”
- “Knowledge is one of the pleasures of the world, yet if it is acted upon, it becomes for the Hereafter.”
- “There are two tyrannies in the world: the tyranny of knowledge and the tyranny of wealth. What saves you from the tyranny of knowledge is worship, and what saves you from tyranny of wealth is renouncing it.”
- “The best knowledge is that which benefits, and Allah only causes knowledge to benefit a person when he acts upon it once having learnt it and he does not cause it to benefit the person that leaves it after having learnt it.”
- “Knowledge without action is like a tree without fruit.”
- “Whoever sought knowledge, intending the knowledge alone (i.e. without action), would not benefit by it. Yet whoever sought knowledge intending to act upon it, would benefit, even by a little knowledge.”
- “Knowledge rests upon action, action rests upon sincerity, and sincerity to Allah brings about understanding of Allah the Mighty and Majestic.”